

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SSM-03

OMB-01 (ISO) W

-----027976 070230Z /21

R 060512Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1641

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2608

E.O. 152: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SA

SUBJECT SAUDI PERSPECTIVE ON ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

1. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABK AL-RAHMAN AL-MANSOURI, WHO WAS MEMBER OF SAUDI DELEGATION TO ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL IN CAIRO MARCH 27-29, TOLD DCM AND POL COUN. ON APRIL 4 THAT MEETINGS HAD GONE VERY SMOOTHLY. ALL DECISIONS HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS BUT, OF COURSE, A MEETING WITHOUT PRESENCE OF REJECTIONIST STATES MADE IT EASY TO GET UNANIMOUS DECISIONS.

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2. MANSOURI SAID DISCUSSION ON RENEWAL OF ADF MANDATE HAD DEVELOPED PRETTY MUCH AS HE HAD PREDICTED IT WOULD. KUWAIT WAS THE MOST RELUCTANT TO SEE ADF RENEWED BUT KUWAITIS WERE NOT AS UNENTHUSIASTIC AS THEY HAD BEEN AT TIME OF PREVIOUS RENEWAL. IN END, IT WAS AGREED THAT PROGRESS REPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM LEBANON AT END OF THREE MONTHS.

3. MANSOURI SAID SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS NOT SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION. RESOLUTION ON EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS EASILY AGREED ON AND MEMBERS PASSED ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

4. MANSOURI WAS QUITE HAPPY WITH RESOLUTIONS ON HORN OF AFRICA. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, HE INDICATED THAT NO DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON HOW TO BRING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE RESOLUTIONS.

5. ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE WAS PLO REQUEST FOR REASSESSMENT OF RELATIONS OF ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS WITH U.S., AND EVEN WHILE IT CALLED FOR REASSESSMENT OF RELATIONS WITH U.S., IT ALSO CALLED FOR COMMITTEE OF ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERS TO GO TO U.S. TO ASK FOR GREATER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. MANSOURI SAID SAUDIS TOLD PLO IN CORRIDOR THAT SAG WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT PLO RESOLUTION PROVIDED IT WAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH ALL FOREIGN STATES, INCLUDING USSR. SAUDIS SAID THEY WANTED RESOLUTION BALANCED. MANSOURI SAID PLO DECIDED THIS WAS NOT RIGHT TIME TO DISCUSS ISSUE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF OTHER ARAB STATES. ACCORDINGLY, PLO WITHDREW ITS RESOLUTION.

6. MANSOURI SAID SUDAN HAD ALREADY BEGUN CONSULTATION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPOSITION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE WHICH ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL HAD SET UP TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. SUDAN HAD DECIDED TO CONSULT SAUDI ARABIA FIRST AND SUDANESE AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED ON MANSOURI ON APRIL 3 FOR THIS PURPOSE. COUNTRIES WHICH THEY DISCUSSED FOR POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMITTEE WERE SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, KUWAIT, AND ALGERIA. ALGERIA WAS SUGGESTED TO PROVIDE BALANCE AND MAKE COMMITTEE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO SYRIA.

7. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM MANSOURI'S REMARKS, SAG APPEARS RELATIVELY HAPPY ABOUT OUTCOME OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING.
WILEY

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